

## Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce

Phone: 601-965-4575  
Facsimile: 601-965-5622  
[www.nass.usda.gov/ms/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/)  
[nass-ms@nass.usda.gov/](mailto:nass-ms@nass.usda.gov/)

Week Ending October 10, 2004

Released: 3:00 P.M., October 12, 2004

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending October 10, 2004**. Rain showers received over the weekend were welcomed by Mississippi farmers. Harvesting was delayed by the passing showers, and is expected to resume when crops dry out. Cotton defoliation has been very good this year due to low moisture and high temperatures. Summer grass growth has been minimal due to the lack of adequate moisture, and has resulted in hay and supplements being used to satisfy cattle requirements. Soil moisture was rated 7 percent very short, 42 percent short, and 42 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Harvested	100	99	99	99	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Open Bolls	97	95	97	99	1	6	17	49	27
	Harvested	62	44	56	56					
Rice	Mature	100	100	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	97	94	91	89					
Sorghum	Harvested	100	100	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	100	100	99	98	--	--	--	--	--
	Shedding Leaves	100	99	95	95					
	Harvested	95	91	80	68					
Wheat	Planted	10	4	38	21	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	98	92	100	98	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	64	50	76	65	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						5	9	22	50	14
Pasture						17	11	32	37	3

### County Agent Comments

"We received more than 3.5 inches of rain over the weekend which has hurt our cotton harvesting. As dry as it was, we should be able to get back in the field soon."

— Don Respess, Bolivar

"We received 2 inches of rain over the weekend which halted harvesting. The rains won't keep producers out of the field long. As soon as the crops dry, harvest can resume. Sufficient moisture should allow wheat to be planted."

— Mack Young, Quitman

"We are in bad need of rain for pastures, fall grazing, yards and wildlife plots. A slow rain would help a lot and not hurt the cotton."

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

"Continuing dry conditions have been favorable for crop harvest. Cotton harvest aids are working well and little regrowth is observed in the dry conditions."

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Rains halted soybean and cotton harvesting on Saturday. General rains continued into Sunday and provided relief to pastures and forest land. The rains were a needed relief and helped alleviate wildfire concerns. Pasture conditions remain good with hay harvest complete for this season.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Rain is predicted to come in this weekend. Farmers are rushing to plant ryegrass ahead of the rain. We are really dry. Most of the hay has been cut and put up. Pasture grass quality is low.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“Cotton harvest is in full swing. Defoliation has been excellent this year due to the hot temperatures and little or no moisture. Yields have been reported from 850 lbs. to 1500 lbs. of lint per acre.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“We had excellent conditions for producers to harvest crops last week. Rain moved in over the weekend, and all field activities came to a stop.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Cotton harvesting was going well until rains arrived Saturday. All harvesting will probably be delayed until next week. Minimal damage is expected.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“Cotton is being harvested at a rapid pace, but the rains have arrived and harvesting has ceased. A small amount of damage is expected.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“RAIN is needed! Cotton and soybean harvests are progressing rapidly, but rain is needed to finish the sweetpotato crop. Cotton yields are better than many locals expected. Sweetpotato yields are erratic, and is dependant on soil moisture at planting date.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Farming activities were brought to a halt by the rain, but producers were happy with the rain received. This should get winter forages up and going as well as some truck patches.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“Recent rainfall has help add some moisture to the soil. More moisture will be needed for producers to have an adequate amount of soil. Producers will also began to plant winter forages for winter grazing.”

— Thomas Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“With the rainfall this past week and cooler temperatures ahead, ryegrass production is off to a good start. Summer grasses are declining so rapidly that many producers are having to try to catch up with the rising requirements of their cattle. Supplements are being fed along with some hay.”

— Lance Bruce, Lauderdale

“Spotty showers have provided some rainfall in certain locations, but not enough to make a measurable difference. With the prediction of a tropical depression arriving in the gulf, producers are hoping that the rainfall will provide needed moisture without bringing damaging winds.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

---

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
**Mississippi Cooperative**  
**Extension Service**  
**Dr. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director**

**Southern Regional Climate Center**  
**Louisiana State University**  
**Elizabeth Sanders**  
**Service Climatologist**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture**  
**Mississippi Agricultural**  
**Statistics Service**  
**Thomas L. Gregory, Director**

Weather Summary from October 4, 2004 to October 10, 2004 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				66		2.40	+1.83	3	2.40				
Cleveland				67		3.27	+2.82	2	3.31				
Tunica	86	50	68	66	+2	1.00	+0.36	2	1.52				0.17
Extreme/Average	86	50	68	67	+1	2.22	+1.59	2	2.41				0.17
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	85	43	66	64	+2	0.55	-0.15	2	1.11				
Calhoun City	85	46	67	66	+1	0.55	-0.08	2	1.18				
Independence	84	44	64	65	-1	0.70	+0.06	2	0.70				
Oxford	95	47	69	64	+5	0.40	-0.37	2	0.60				
Extreme/Average	95	43	67	65	+2	0.55	-0.16	2	0.90				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	83	50	66	64	+2	0.18	-0.52	2	1.33				
Iuka	81	41	62	62	0	0.11	-0.64	2	5.01				
Ripley	81	45	64	63	+1	0.25	-0.45	2	0.89				
Tupelo	85	50	67			0.36		2	2.16				
Verona	87	48	67	65	+2	0.37	-0.32	2	3.51				0.17
Extreme/Average	87	41	65	65	0	0.25	-0.49	2	2.58				0.17
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	89	55	71	69	+2	2.53	+1.83	2	2.81				
Rolling Fork	90	57	72	68	+4	0.83	-0.00	2	0.83	90	64	78	
Stoneville	89	53	71	68	+3	3.16	+2.46	2	3.16	88	70	77	
Yazoo City	88	56	70	69	+1	1.85	+1.02	2	1.85				
Extreme/Average	90	53	71	68	+3	2.09	+1.32	2	2.16	90	64	77	
5. Central													
Canton	89	55	70	68	+2	1.38	+0.68	2	1.39				
Carthage	86	55	69	67	+2	0.14	-0.56	2	0.16				
Lexington	88	52	68	67	+1	0.63	-0.07	2	0.64				
Eupora				65		0.40	-0.38	2	1.18				
Extreme/Average	89	52	69	67	+2	0.72	-0.00	2	0.73				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	85	49	68	66	+2	0.47	-0.37	2	2.94				0.14
Houston	87	43	66	64	+2	0.62	-0.08	2	1.68				
Louisville	84	40	67	66	+1	0.55	-0.22	2	2.70				
State University	86	49	66	66	0	0.35	-0.35	2	5.14	76	71	73	0.14
Extreme/Average	87	40	67	66	+1	0.50	-0.21	2	3.12	76	71	73	0.13
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	88	61	72	69	+3	6.13	+5.36	4	6.13	91	57	75	
Natchez	89	62	73	70	+3	4.88	+4.04	3	5.26				
Oakley	90	59	73	67	+6	3.85	+3.15	3	3.85	90	75	79	
Vicksburg	87	59	70			3.03		2	3.03				
Extreme/Average	90	59	72	69	+3	4.47	+3.70	3	4.57	91	57	77	
8. South-Central													
Collins	87	63	71	68	+3	1.52	+0.74	4	1.90				
Columbia	91	65	74	69	+5	1.66	+0.89	3	1.92				
Tylertown	89	65	76	70	+6	2.51	+1.67	5	3.88				
Extreme/Average	91	63	74	69	+5	1.90	+1.13	4	2.57				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	93	61	74			1.37		2	3.12				
Hattiesburg	91	64	74	69	+5	0.51	-0.25	2	2.08				
Laurel	88	63	73	68	+5	0.38	-0.34	2	1.30				
Newton	86	51	67	66	+1	0.24	-0.46	2	1.90	79	68	72	0.09
Extreme/Average	93	51	72	68	+4	0.63	-0.08	2	2.10	79	68	72	0.09
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis				71					1.11				
Gulfport				72		3.61	+2.89	5	6.44				
Poplarville	88	65	75	71	+4	2.94	+2.17	5	3.87	89		66	0.28
Waveland	91	69	76	71	+5	3.42	+2.74	6	5.94				
Extreme/Average	91	65	76	71	+5	3.32	+2.57	5	4.91	89		66	0.28
State	95	40	70	67	+3	1.65	+0.92	3	2.56	91	57	73	0.17

DFN = Departure from Normal.